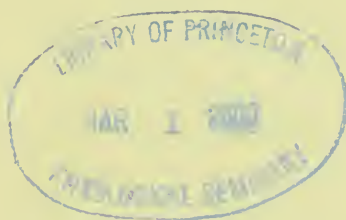


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KNOWING ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT

**A STUDY NOTEBOOK ON THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR
STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL.**

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Knowing about the Old
Testament

KNOWING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Introduction :

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.
Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Psalms 119: vs: 105, 11, 13.

Holy Bible, book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came;
Mine to teach me what I am.

Mine to comfort in distress,
Suff'ring in this wilderness;
Mine to show by living faith,
Man can triumph over death.



I. What is the Bible about?

The Bible is the story of God's dealing with man. It is a complete history of God working with men. It shows the successes and failures of men as they learn about God. The stories are not separate stories, but have a connection with each other. The Bible is the word of God.

II. Why study the Bible?

We study the Bible to understand for ourselves why this is greatest book in the world. We learn that it is one complete history which shows that God has revealed Himself to mankind. We study the Bible to learn its teachings for a better life. The Bible says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth".

III. How well known is the Bible?

The Bible has been translated into over 1,000 languages and dialects. It is the greatest book in demand to be printed in the world. It also has the largest number of copies sold among all books. When translated into any language, it makes sense. It is not limited in expression or ideas to any one age. It is true that some parts are difficult to understand. However there are many parts that even a simple person can understand. We are expected to live by what we do understand.

IV. Some facts about the Bible.

- a. The term "Bible" means "the book". It is sometimes called the divine library. Although it is only one volume, it has sixty-six books in it.

b. There are two main sections to the Bible.

1. The first section is called the "Old Testament". It tells about the world before Jesus came. There are 39 books in this section.
2. The second section is called the "New Testament". It tells about the Life of Jesus and the early history and teachings of the church. There are 27 books in this section.

c. For convenience of finding references in the Bible easily, the books are divided up into chapters. In turn the chapters are broken up into verses. For example: John 3 :16 means the book of John, chapter three and the sixteenth verse.

d. The Bible cannot be read in one day, but one can read it everyday.

V. Time of Writing the Bible.

The Bible was not written at the same time. The time of writing covers about 1000 years. There is a great difference in the circumstances under which each person wrote. Some of the books were written in quiet and peaceful circumstances. Some were written in prison. Some books were written when the author was in great sorrow. There are other books which were written to show joy and others were written to help answer a problem in living. The first book of the Bible is Genesis. It was probably written about 1,500 years before Jesus lived. The last book of the Bible is The Revelation of John. It was written about one hundred years after Jesus lived. In between those times men were writing as they were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God.

VI. Authors of the Bible Books.

No one person wrote the whole Bible. There were many different men who did many different kinds of things among the areas. The following list is an example of some of the men who wrote different books of the Bible.

- a. Moses was a Hebrew who had a good Egyptian education and became the leader of the Hebrew people when they left slavery in Egypt to go to Canan. He wrote parts of the first five books of the Bible.
- b. David was a king over the Israelites. As a boy he had been a shepherd. He wrote many of the Psalms.
- c. Solomon was a great and wise king. He wrote some of the Proverbs and other books of the Old Testament.
- d. Ezra, who wrote the book by his name, was a priest.
- e. Nehemiah, who wrote the book by his name, was a bearer to the Persian King.

- f. Jeremiah was a despised prophet.
- g. Amos was a poor farmer.
- h. Luke was a Gentile Doctor.
- i. John was a fisherman before he became a disciple of Jesus and wrote concerning Jesus.
- j. We do not know about the authors of all the books of the Bible, but they wrote as the Spirit of God moved upon their hearts to write under whatever circumstances they were and whatever they were doing.

VI. Type of Literature in the Bible.

There is a variety of literature in the Bible.

- a. The first five books of the Bible are prose and contain the Laws given by God to the Hebrew people. These books are called "the Pentateuch".
- b. There are other books of prose which are books of history.
- c. There are books of songs and poetry. The Psalms of the Bible means the songs.
- d. There are books which are short sayings like the book of Proverbs.
- e. There are books of sermons and essays.
- f. Some of the Bible books are in the form of stories like the book of Ruth.
- g. The New Testament has the same different types of literature.

VII. Why is the Bible a complete unit?

Even if there is a great variety in all these things, yet there is a unity in it. There is a unity because all are bound up together in the revelation of God. He is the unity of the book.

Questions:

1. What is the Bible the story of?
2. Give two reasons for studying the Bible.
3. Into how many languages is the Bible translated?
4. Is there a demand for the Bible to be printed?
5. Is the Bible easy to understand?
6. What should we do about the parts we do understand?
7. What does "Bible" mean?
8. How many books are there in the whole Bible?

9. What are the two main sections of the Bible?
10. How many Books are in the Old Testament?
11. How many books are in the New Testament?
12. How many years was the Bible in writing?
13. What is the first book in the Bible? The last book?
14. Were all the books of the Bible written by the same kind of persons.
15. Describe some of the writers of the books of the Bible.
16. What type of literature are the first five books of the Bible?
17. What type of literature are the Psalms?
18. What makes the Bible a unit?
19. Learn the names of the books of the Bible.
20. Write the names of the books in the library chart given.

GENESIS

Book of Beginnings

Introduction :

We realize that every thing must have a beginning. The beginning of all things starts with God. But God has no beginning. God has eternal life, no beginning and no ending.

1. Creation, Read Genesis Chapter 1 and 2

A. The first verse in the Bible is "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." We do not know how long ago this took place. Creation in this sense means to **make** some thing out of nothing. We know this could only be done by God's power.

1. God created the heavens and the earth in six days.

Day 1..... He created light.

Day 2..... He created the firmament.

Day 3..... He created the seas and dry land.

Day 4..... He created the sun, moon, and stars.

Day 5..... He created lower animal life.

Day 6.....He created higher animal life.

(Make a sketch of what was created in each day.)

2. God rested the seventh day and so He made it a holy day. God expects that we also will take one day to rest from the regular duties of our lives and spend time in worshiping and learning about Him.
3. God made man in his own image. This refers to man's spiritual nature. Man is able to know God because He has a spiritual nature to respond to God.

THE SIXTY-SIX BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament—39

New Testament—27

OLD TESTAMENT

LAW

HISTORY

POETRY

MAJOR PROPHETS

MINOR

PROPHETS

NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS

HISTORY

PAULINE LETTERS & HEBREWS

GENERAL LETTERS

PROPHECY

II. The beginning of sin. Read Genesis Chapter 2 and 3.

The first man created was named Adam. His wife was named Eve. They lived in a garden place which was called Eden. How long they lived there in innocence and in fellowship with God we do not know. But God had made man so that he had a moral sense, that is, he has the ability to choose right from wrong. The sad story of beginning of sin is outlined as follows:

1. Adam and Eve were told not to eat of the fruit of one tree.
2. They received a temptation to disobey.
3. They listened to the temptation and disobeyed. Punishment followed because of wrongdoing.
4. God promised that there would be a way for them to be saved from the guilt of sin. It is verse 15 in chapter 3 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel." These were said to the evil one. The rest of the Bible tells of God's plan and work to fulfil this promise.

III. Noah and the Flood. Read Genesis Chapters 6 to 9.

A. Purpose of the flood.

In time there were many men and women on the earth. However they led lives of wickedness and did not listen to Good commandments. God saw that this wickedness was increasing. He decided to destroy the wicked people.

B. However there was a good man with his family. His name was Noah. He found favour in the eyes of God because he was a good man who tried to obey the words of God. Noah had three sons and at each one had a wife.

C. God's plan

God told Noah that He would send down a flood of water to destroy the people and end all their wickedness. He told Noah that he should build a large boat which is called an Ark. This Ark would float on the water and save those who were in it. He commanded Noah to put a male and a female of every living thing on earth into the Ark. Then Noah and his family were to enter in and God would close the door and keep them safely. All that God told Noah to do he did.

D. The Flood

Then the Lord sent down the waters. For forty days and forty nights it rained. The waters flooded the earth. But the ark began to float when the water rose up on the earth. Noah and his family along with the birds and beasts which he had taken into the Ark were all safe. For one hundred and fifty days after the rain the water was on the face of the earth. Then the Ark came to rest on a place

called Mount Ararat. Noah opened a window of the Ark and sent out a dove, but the dove returned because it could not find any place to rest. This meant there was water everywhere and the Ark could not be opened. A week later the dove was sent out again. This time it returned with an olive leaf in its beak. Now Noah knew that the water was nearly gone. The third time that the dove went out she did not return. So Noah knew that all could leave the ark.

E. Leaving the Ark.

God told Noah that he could leave the Ark with all that was inside. He promised that He would never send a flood again to destroy the earth and as a sign of His promise He set a rainbow in the heavens that reaches from one end of the earth to the other. Noah built an altar to God and made offerings to God in thankfulness for his deliverance from the flood.

Questions :

1. What kind of people were on the earth?
2. What kind of a man was Noah?
3. What did God command him to build?
4. How many days did it rain?
5. Describe what happened when Noah sent out the dove.
6. What is the rainbow a promise of?
7. What did Noah do when he left the Ark?
8. How many days after the rain stopped did the Ark float about?
9. Draw a picture of the Ark or of the rainbow with the altar Noah built.

IV. Abraham; Friend of God.

A. Abraham's Call and God's Promise to him. Genesis 12

Abram was a descendant of Noah's son Shem. His father's name was Terah. His wife's name was Sarah. As a young man his home was in the city of Ur. Ur was a great city at that time in the area known as Mesopotamia. The people lived in houses of sun-baked bricks. They could write. They made wedge-shaped figures with a stick. Even today tablets of clay are found with writing about arithmetic, medicine, and other subjects which were written in Abraham's time. We must not think that Abraham was an ignorant man.

There was a great deal of trade in those days between that country and Egypt. The green plains of Shinar between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers stretched northward and then westward to the Great Sea. The land along the Great Sea was called Canaan. Then the Great Sea's coast led southward to Egypt and to the Nile River. This area from the two rivers to Egypt is called the "Fertile Crescent".

One day God spoke to Abraham and told him to go from the country where he was to a land which the Lord would show him. Abraham was obedient to God's command. It was not easy to travel in those days but Abraham and his wife and his Nephew, Lot followed God's commands.

Because Abraham was willing to obey God, God made some promises to him. They are as follows:

1. A great nation would come from Abraham.
2. A great name would be given to Abraham.
3. A land would be given to Abraham's descendants.
4. In Abraham all the people of the world would be blessed.

B. Abraham and his son Isaac.

Abraham and Sarah were childless for many years. However, God promised them a son. When Abraham was one hundred years old, Sarah bore him a son whom they called Isaac. When Isaac was a young man, God tested Abraham's faith. God commanded Abraham to take his son to the land of Moriah and there on an altar he was to bind him and offer him to the Lord.

Abraham was very sore at heart, for he loved Isaac, and God had given him a very hard thing to do. But he had always obeyed God so he set out to do as God told him. Just as he prepared to make the sacrifice, the voice of God came saying, "Abraham, lay not your hand upon the lad nor do anything to hurt him, for I have provided you a sacrifice. For now I see that you fear the Lord. You have not forgotten your duty because you have not withheld your only child from me". And as Abraham lifted up his eyes he saw a ram caught in the bushes. He took the ram and offered it up as a sacrifice. Abraham and Isaac left the place with great joy and a great blessing from God, because they had put the will of God as the first thing in their lives.

Place on the map the following places: Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea, Great Sea, Red Sea, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Nile River, Jordan river, Arabian Desert, Egypt, Sinai Peninsula, Shinar, Ur, Haran, Canaan.

V. Jacob. Genesis 25—35.

1. His early life.

Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah. He had a twin brother whose name was Esau. Esau was the elder by a few minutes. When the boys were growing up, Esau would hunt for wild animals, but Jacob stayed quietly at home. Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. One day while Jacob was cooking some dal, Esau came in from his hunting feeling faint with hunger. He begged his brother for some of the food. Jacob agreed to give it to him if he would sell his birthright.

This meant that he would get the blessing that belonged to the oldest son of the family. Later on with the help of his mother he gained the blessing of his father which made him the lord over the household even over his brother Esau. This made his brother angry, so Jacob had to leave home.

2. His dream.

As Jacob went away from home he had to make a long journey alone. That night as he was feeling lonely and perhaps, was afraid, he fell asleep and had a dream. In those days people did not have the written words of God and He often spoke to people through dreams. On this night Jacob saw a shining ladder reaching right to heaven from where he lay. There were angels on the ladder, some coming down, some going up. God spoke to Jacob. He told him that he would be the one to receive the promises of Abraham and Issac. God gave him a wonderful promise. It is found in Genesis 28:15. "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again to this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken of." When Jacob awoke he was filled with wonder. He said, "Surely God is in this place, and I did not know it." He marked the place calling it "House of God".

3. Later life.

God did bless Jacob. He had twelve sons. They were the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Questions :

1. Give the names of the twin sons of Issac.
2. What did Jacob ask his brother for whom he wanted food.
3. What did Jacob see in the dream?
4. What was the promise God made to Jacob?
5. What name did he give to the place where God spoke to him?
6. How many sons did Jacob have?

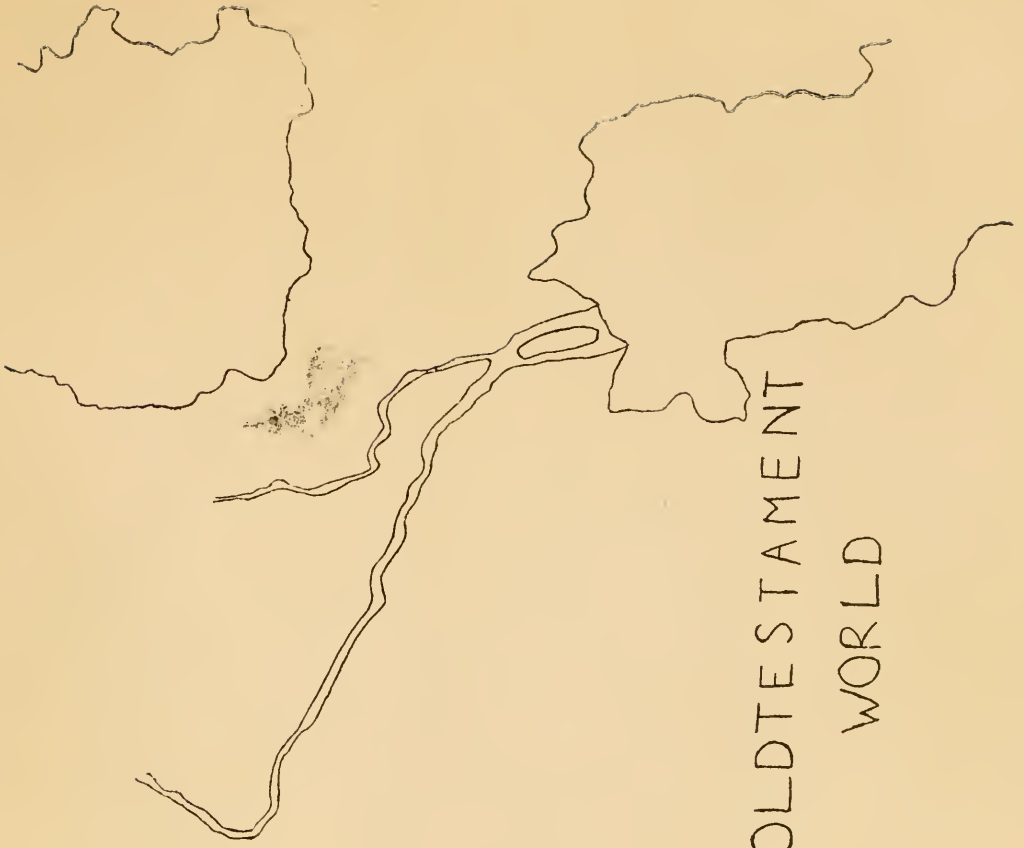
VI. Joseph Genesis 37—50

1. As a boy.

Joseph was the son of Jacob and Rachel. Of the twelve sons that Jacob had, Joseph was the son he loved the most. He made him a long sleeved coat of many colours, the like of which none of the others had. When his brothers saw this, they were filled with envy and hatred for Joseph. They spoke unkind words with him and abused him. One day he told them of a dream he had in which his brothers sheaves of grain bowed down to his. This made the brothers very angry.

Soon after this Joseph was sent by his father to a place where his brothers were out with the sheep. When they saw Joseph coming with his bright coat on, they were filled with anger. One of them said, "Here comes the dreamer. "Let us kill him and throw him in a pit, and we shall tell our father that he was killed by a wild beast" "Reuben, the eldest brother objected to the killing, but suggested they put him down

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in the pit and leave him there. This is what they did. They took off Joseph's bright coat and threw him down in the pit. Then they set down to have their meal. Suddenly they saw a caravan coming. This caravan was a group of traders going to Egypt to sell their products. One of the brothers called Judah spoke up and said, "Why don't we sell our brother Joseph to these traders and they will take him to Egypt to sell as a slave." The brothers agreed to this and so they took Joseph out of the pit and sold him as a slave for twenty pieces of silver. Even though Joseph received harsh treatment he did not forget God. He did not know then why he suffered, but in later years he came to understand that God used the event for good.

Joseph in Egypt.

After being sold as a slave by his brothers, Joseph was taken to Egypt where he was sold again to Potiphar, the Captain of the King's guards. Every thing prospered and Joseph was advanced to a place of a trusted servant. However, a false charge was brought against him and again he had to suffer. He was put in prison. In prison he became one who could take the responsibility under the guard. It happened at that time that the king's servant also was in prison and one night he had a dream. This dream troubled him very much. Only Joseph could tell him about the dream and what it meant. After a few days the king's servant was released as Joseph had predicted according to the dream. He went back to the palace to work. When he left Joseph asked him to help him get a release, but the man forgot him at first. One night the king had a dream which bothered him very much. He called in all the wise men and asked them to give him the answer to the meaning of the dream. No one could answer him as to the meaning of the dream. Then the servant who had been in the prison remember Joseph and told the king about him. Joseph was brought from prison and brought before the king. Joseph could tell him what the dream meant. The dream foretold of seven good years of plenty of grain. Then there would be seven bad years of crop failure and a famine would come. Joseph made a suggestion to the king about storing grain during the years of plenty so that in the years of famine there would be grain for the people.

Joseph's words pleased the king and he immediately made Joseph chief minister in his kingdom. Joseph took his duties seriously and stored the grain during the good years so that when the famine years came there was plenty of grain in Egypt. God used Joseph for good as Joseph was faithful to God.

Joseph's brothers come to Egypt.

The famine which came was not only in Egypt, but in every part of the world. In the land of Canaan where Joseph's family lived, there was a great shortage of food. One day Joseph's brothers heard that there was plenty of grain in Egypt. Ten of Joseph's brothers decided to go to Egypt to buy grain for their families. When they arrived in Egypt they did not know that the chief minister was their own brother whom they had sold as a slave. Joseph saw them and decided to test what manner of men they had become. He would only give grain if one of them were held in prison. They

were told if they wanted more grain and were to return they must bring their youngest brother, Benjamin with them. After some time when they needed grain again, they took Benjamin with them although the father greatly objected to his going. When Joseph saw his younger brother, Benjamin standing before him in the midst of the brothers, he called them into a room privately and then said with weeping, "Do you not know that I am your brother whom you sold as a slave". As he said this, the faces of the brothers showed shame and guilt. Then Joseph told them "Do not fear for I have no hate in my heart for what you did to me. God used it for good." He asked them to bring all their families to Egypt and especially his father. So Jacob and his family came to Egypt and lived in the land of Goahen, which was a part of the Nile River Delta. After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers came to him and asked for forgiveness and Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? As for you you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today".

We can learn many things from the life of Joseph. We see that inspite of many hard things in his life, he always kept faith in God. No matter where he was he said that God gave him the knowledge to do things and to know about the dreams. He was loyal and obedient to his daily duties and always did his best. His simple faith in God was powerful. The scriptures teach us "Without faith it is impossible to please God".

Questions :

1. What special gift did Jacob give Joseph.
2. Did Joseph's brothers like him?
3. What did Joseph dream?
4. When his brothers saw Joseph coming what did they plan to do?
5. Where did Reuben suggest they put Joseph?
6. What did Judah say when he saw the caravan?
7. How much money did they get when they sold Joseph?
8. Did Joseph forget God when he went as a slave to Egypt?
10. Why was Joseph put in prison?
11. What did Joseph do for the King's servant who was put in prison?
12. When did the servant remember Joseph?
13. What was the meaning of the king's dream?
14. When the king heard of Joseph's words concerning a way to provide for the famine what did he do?
15. Did the famine affect other places in the world?
16. Who came from Canaan to buy grain?
17. Did they know Joseph?
18. What test did Joseph give them?
19. When Benjamin came before Joseph, what did Joseph do?
20. What did Joseph ask his brothers to do with his father?
21. What did Joseph tell his brothers about the evil they meant to do to him?
22. What things can we learn from the life of Joseph?

MOSES

Early life :

For many years after Joseph's day, the descendents of the families of Jacob's sons stayed in Egypt and prospered. They were called the Hebrews. Then a new king came to reign in the land. He saw that the Hebrew people were growing in number and he became afraid of them and made them slaves. They had to build big buildings with cruel men to watch over them. Never-the-less there were still many of them. Then the king gave a command that all the boy babies born to the Hebrews should be thrown in the river.

One of the families had a baby boy born and he was a very good baby. They hid him for four months and then they decided to do something to help save him. He was put in a basket which did not leak and was put near the place where the king's daughter would come to bathe. Sure enough after a while the king's daughter and a party of young women come to the river. There they saw the basket and the baby. The king's daughter saw the beautiful child and decided to keep the baby. The baby's sister was close by and suggested that she could bring a woman to take care of the baby. The princess agreed and the sister brought the child's own mother. The baby was named Moses and he grew up in the household of the king's palace.

The Call to Work for God.

Although Moses grew up in the palace, he grew to know about the difficulties of the Hebrew people. He began to take their part against the Egyptians. He got into trouble because of this and had to run away into a desert country. There he worked taking care of sheep. One day as he was leading a flock of sheep in the desert, he saw a bush on fire. He looked and he was surprised to see that the bush did not finish burning. It just kept on burning. He went over to look at it. As he looked in wonder, he suddenly became weak with fear. Then he heard a voice calling his name. After he answered he heard the following words, "You are standing on holy ground, Moses. Take off your shoes". After taking off the shoes Moses heard more, "Hear me, for I am the God of your fathers Abraham Isaac, and Jacob. I have seen the suffering of my people. I will deliver them. You shall go the King and tell him to let the Hebrew people to the land where I will lead them." Moses was very much afraid and made objections to doing this task. But the Lord told him not to be afraid and take his brother with him to help him speak. His brother's name was Aaron. Before Aaron and Moses went to Egypt they worshiped God and gave thanks that God would deliver the people.

The Plagues of Egypt.

When Moses and Aaron went to the king of Egypt to ask for the people to go, the king laughed at them. Because the king would not listen to the voice of God speaking, there were some troubles, called plagues, which came upon the land. They were as follows:

1. The water of the river Nile became blood so that the Egyptians had nothing to drink.
2. Frogs came up from the river and entered the houses, beds and were into everything.
3. Then there was a swarm of gnats.
4. Swarms of flies then came and landed on everything.
5. Then all the cattle had a disease and were dying.
6. Men became infected with boils.
7. Great hail stones fell ruining the crops.
8. Great swarms of locusts came over the land.
9. Darkness came over the land for three days and three nights.
10. The first born of the Egyptians died.

The king had been warned before each plague. Just before the last plague, God told Moses that the Israelites would be spared from the death plague if they would observe the following commandments. They were to kill a lamb and put the blood of it on the door posts. This blood on the door post was sign that they heard God's words and the death angel would "pass-over" that house and they would be saved from death. This time became known as the Passover and in the later years the Hebrew people kept the memory of being saved by observing a "feast of the Passover."

When the last plague had taken place the king told Moses and Aaron to take the people out of the country. Moses took the people and lead them out of Egypt and the Lord went before them as a Pillar of Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by night.

In order to leave Egypt the people had to cross the Red Sea. God, however, was able to save them. He told Moses to lift up his rod over the water and they would all walk across on dry land. This is what happened and all arrived safely on the other side. The people gave thanks to God for his deliverance.

The Ten Commandments.

It was a difficult task to take the great group of people who had been slaves to the land of Canaan. Many of the people did not want to obey the leaders. Some did not have much faith in God that He would lead them to their new home. And so it was that they began to complain about the food. But God sent food for them each day. It would come down in the morning and it was like a little biscuit flavored with honey. They called it "Manna". Again flocks of birds were caught so that meat was provided. When there was no water, God told Moses to strike a rock so that water would come out. God provided for them.

After they started their journey they came to a place near a mountain called Mt. Sinai. Here Moses received the commandments for the people to obey. These are called the Ten Commandments because there are ten of them. In simple form they are as follows :

1. You shall have no other God before me.
2. You shall not make for yourselves any graven images,
nor shall you bow down to them or worship them.

3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbours.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbours.

When the people heard these they all cried with a loud voice, "As the Lord has spoken, so shall we do".

Entry to a new land.

For forty years the Hebrew children wandered through the wilderness. They had a place of worship called the tabernacle. They could move it wherever they went and pillar of the cloud and fire was always with them. Finally the day came when they would enter the land of Canaan. Moses was an old man now and he knew he would not be leading them in the new land. A leader named Joshua was chosen. Moses went up on a mountain and looked into the land where they were going and he saw that it was a good land. Moses died then knowing that God was able to fulfill as he had promised.

Questions :

1. Why were the Hebrews made slaves?
2. How was Moses saved from death?
3. What did God say to Moses from the burning bush?
4. Did Moses feel that he was able to do the work God gave him? Who went with him?
5. What are plagues?
6. How many were sent upon Egypt?
7. What did the word pass-over mean?
8. How did the people cross the Red Sea?
9. What did the people eat in the desert?
10. Learn the ten commandments.

Entrance into the Promised Land

After Moses died Joshua became the leader of the people and God made this promise to him, "As I did not fail nor forsake Moses, so shall I not fail nor forsake you".

And so it was that Joshua led the people into the land which God had promised them. They had many difficulties with enemies, but they were victorious. They spread to the west and north and south. Wherever they went they found fragrant green fields, trees laden with fruit, springs of sparkling water, vineyards full of vines with grapes, and herds of sheep and cattle and goats.

The land was divided as the Lord had commanded, each tribe having its proper share. The people settled in the cities in the plains, and on the slopes of the mountains from the river Jordan to the farthest borders of the land.

At first the people had no king and they chose men who were called Judges who ruled over them.

One of the Judges : Gideon

The people, who come to the promised land, remembered very well how the Lord had led them into the land and they worshiped him as they said they would in Joshua 24. But after time went by, they died and their children grew up and died. So that after many years the Israelites began to forget God. They tried to live like the people who lived in the land. Because they did wrong in forgetting God, God allowed other nations to conquer them. They had a lot of hardships. When they called upon God and repented, then He helped them again.

One of the enemies who gave trouble to Israel was the nation called Midian. They would watch to see when the Israelites were getting ready to harvest the crops and then they would come and take the grain. This happened for seven years. The Israelites had no strength to drive them out. They began to hide in caves and go to hills to save their cattle.

There was a young man whose name was Gideon. His family had hidden the grain in an old wine-press, that is, a place where grapes were put and pressed so that the juice would come out. As Gideon started to work, he suddenly realized a stranger was there. The stranger told him that God was with him and that he was to save the people from the Midianites. Gideon was sure he would not do such work. But God gave him a sign that he would be with him and Gideon believed God and desired to serve him.

He sent messages to the Israelites to come and gather so that they could form an army against the Midianites. 32,000 men came to be soldiers. This seems like quite a number, but God told Gideon there were too many and that all were afraid were to go home. When Gideon made this announcement 22,000 went home. God again said that these were too many and he told Gideon to have them drink at a river. The men who knelt on the ground and put their mouths down on the water were to go home for they could not see while doing this if the enemy were coming. But Gideon was to keep all these who cupped up water in one hand and drank as they were looking about. Gideon saw that only 300 were left. But God had a plan. The three hundred were divided into three groups and each man was given a trumpet and a clay pitcher with a torch in it. At night when the three groups surrounded the enemy on three different sides, Gideon broke his pitcher and the torch inside was lighted and burning bright. As he did this he shouted and blew the trumpet. At this sign all the 300 did the same thing. Their pitchers crashed with a noise and light flashed in all sides in the dark. The men blew their trumpets and the sound echoed in the valley. Then enemy awoke and heard the sounds and saw the lights and were very much afraid. They grabbed their swords and started to run. They fought with each other as they did not know who was fighting them. After that time the Midianites did not come again.

God told the people that it was He who had saved them and that is why they did not need a big army for the Lord would fight for them if they would trust in Him. The needful thing is to be faithful to God.

DAVID

After many years went by the people wanted to have a king rule over them. The last judge was named Samuel. He had been given by his mother before his birth to serve the Lord. He did very well. He helped Israel chose a king. The first king who was chosen was a man named Saul. One of the first things that Saul had to do was to get rid of the enemies who came to fight.

Among the enemies who came to fight was a giant of a man called Goliath. He had a great armour on and had a great big sword. He came near the camp of the king and cried in a loud voice, "Choose a man among you to come and fight against me. If he shall kill me, we shall be your servants; but if I kill him then you shall be our servants". Every one in Saul's army was very much afraid.

At this time a young man named David came to visit his older brothers who were in the army of Saul. He was bringing food from home for them and had only the things which a shepherd carried, for this was his work at home. When he arrived he heard Goliath make the challenge and he was surprised that every one was afraid. He thought that God would help them. When none else would go, he said, "I will go and fight him in the name of the Lord". So he went to fight him and he refused to wear the armour that the king wanted to give him. Instead he went to the brook and chose five smooth stones from it. Then he took his sling with him and went out to face the giant. Goliath looked at the young man in anger, thinking that he was making sport of him. David did not fear. He put a stone in the sling and with a mighty throw he slung the stone straight to the middle of the giant's forehead. As though struck with a bolt from the Lord, the giant dropped dead.

The people of Israel sang songs of joy and all came to know David's name as a hero. After some years David became the king. David was also remembered for his music. He wrote many of the songs which are in the book of the Psalms. These are songs of praise to the Lord.

David had to fight to bring peace to his land, but during his last days peace came. He ruled for forty years. He caused his son Solomon to be anointed king after him.

David and the Psalms

David was a good and wise king and a very brave and victorious soldier. He was also a wonderful musician. He probably learned to play the flute when he was a boy tending his sheep on the hills of Bethlehem. He also knew how to play a harp. Not only did he play instruments, but he invented many of them and had them made ready for use in the temple which Solomon was going to build.

Look in your Bibles at Psalm 150. Make a list of six instruments mentioned:

.....
David not only invented the instruments, but he also composed the tunes which the musicians were to play. The tunes were for the songs which would be sang in the Temple. David also wrote the words of many songs. These songs are called Psalms.

Some of the songs were for public worship such as Psalm 24.

Write out Psalm 24: 1 and 2.....
.....

Some give praise for God's creation. Write out Psalm 8:3 and 4.
.....
.....

Some of the songs were prayers. One of the private prayers is Psalm 51. David wrote this when he was very unhappy because he had sinned against God. He had done something which God hated and until that sin was forgiven, David could have no peace. Then he prayed to God in the words of this lovely Psalm. God heard his prayer and forgave him. David was glad again, but he wrote the prayer down so he could read it often and remember God's great goodness in forgiving his sin. From Psalm 51 write out the following verses:

Verses 2 and 3:
.....

Verse 7:

Verse 10:

Verse: 17:
.....

Tho Psalms of David are loved today because they give us comfort and cheer and help for living. God speaks through them to us. Read Psalm 1.

Solomon.

Solomon was a king who was noted for his great wisdom. One of the stories told in the Bible about his wisdom is the one about two women who both claimed to be the mother of the same child. When Solomon commanded that the child be cut in two, one half to be given to each, one woman stood by and said nothing. But the other burst into tears and cried, "No, no ! Let the other woman have him, but spare his life. "When Solomon heard this woman cry he knew that she was the real mother of the child and so he gave the child to her.

The kingdom of Solomon was the greatest of the ancient Israelites. There were peace and plenty in the land. Many people came from great distances to hear Solomon's wisdom. One of the persons who came was a queen of the land of Sheba. She was very much impressed with all the things which she saw and heard. This was a time of great writings among the poets and also the laws, and documents of history and the psalms and proverbs were gathered together. The country enjoyed fame in the eyes of other countries. Never again was the country to enjoy such a position.

Solomon decided to build a temple to God. He sent to the king of Tyre for cedars and he had stone cut at a place away from Jerusalem. 183,000 men laboured for seven years to make the beautiful building. The priests brought the ark of the Lord and the holy vessels and put them in the temple was dedicated to the worship of God and it became a symbol of faith for all Israel.

However, Solomon's kingdom did not last after his death. Two things led to the downfall. One of these was that Solomon married many wives. These wives did not all worship God. In fact some of them led him to put up heathen altars in Jerusalem. The second thing was that Solomon put very high taxes on the people. The first act of Solomon displeased the people. So when Solomon died after 40 years of ruling and his son became the king, the ten northern tribes revolted and set up their own king. The land became divided and it was weak in the face of its enemies.

In the latter years of the kingdoms, the Northern kingdom was taken captive by the Assyrians. Later on the southern kingdom was taken captive by the great king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar.

Questions:

1. Who was the leader who took the people into the land God promised them?
2. What promise did God make to Joshua?
3. What kind of a land did they find?
4. What was the name of the last judge of Israel?
5. What was the name of the first king of Israel?
6. Who was Goliath and what did he do? Who were the people afraid of him?
7. Describe David's way of killing the enemy.
8. Besides being a king, what else is David remembered for?
9. Who was king after David?
10. What great things took place under Solomon's rule?
11. What two things caused his kingdom to divide?

The wisdom of Solomon.

Solomon not only did many wise things but he also wrote many of these down. These wise sayings are called proverbs. We are told that Solomon gave three thousand proverbs. Many of these are preserved for us in the Bible book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. We can read about God's advice to us on our problems today as we read from Solomon's proverbs.

Below will be given some of the things which affect us and the advice given in Solomon's writings.

1. **Anger** Anger leads to many sins, such as making cruel remarks, hitting others, using bad language, etc. What is the advice given in Proverbs 16:32. Write it down.
-
-

2. **Lying.** The habit of lying is a very dangerous one as it leads to trouble and to distrust of others. Write down the advice given in Proverbs 12:19
-

3. **Drinking.** This habit destroys life and character. Read Proverbs 23:21. What does it say happens to the drunkard?.....
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4. Lack of thought for others or selfishness. God wants us to think of others. He will bless those who are unselfish. What does Solomon say in Proverbs 19:17.....
-
-

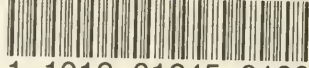
5. Unfriendliness. It is good to be friends with all. Proverbs 17:17 says.....
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-

6. Hiding our sins. We cannot hide from God. Proverbs 28:13 advises us to
-
-

7. Laziness. In Ecclesiastes 9:10 we learn how we should do our work.....
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There are many good things to learn, but in Ecclesiastes 12:1 is the best advice for young people:

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